



## *Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide*

### *Devotional:*

We begin our study of the Doctrine of God with great anticipation. Our goal is to discover and understand what God is like, and we can only do that through the study of God's Word. Do you realise that the first and main purpose of the Bible is to reveal God to us and show us what He is like? Our knowledge of Him is based upon what He has revealed about Himself to us in His Word. Yet many do not really know what God is like, and some even have a wrong or faulty understanding of Him. Dr. Packer, the well known English theologian, writes in his classic book "Knowing God," that "ignorance of God ---ignorance both of His ways and of the practice of communion with Him-- lies at the root of the church's weakness". It was Charles Spurgeon, the renowned Baptist pastor of 19<sup>th</sup> century London, who said "I believe that the proper study of God's elect is GOD." We need to ask ourselves the question: "When did we ever undertake a systematic study of the attributes and ways of God?" Why not start to do so to-day? You will be greatly blessed if you do. Consider carefully this short, simple but profound statement "What we are, how we pray, how we worship, how we evangelize, how we live and how we handle our problems, all depend on our concept or understanding of God". A correct concept of God is the foundation of all that occurs in our lives and in our

ministries. If this is true (and it is) it is absolutely essential that every Christian and every children's worker should give top priority to "the study of God." Make it your goal to learn all you can about Him from His Word, and then ask yourself the question; "How does this truth influence and direct my life and my ministry?"

Dr. Tozer, the well-known American pastor and author, emphasised the importance of such a study, when he wrote "the man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems." May we, in the coming months, come to see God as He really is, and as He is revealed to us in His Word; and, on the basis of that belief and knowledge, be better able to overcome our problems.

**In the meantime, when you are reading a passage of Scripture in your Quiet Time, make it your practice to ask yourself this question: "What does this passage teach me about God?"**



Here in Ireland we have a song which starts with these words: "If you're Irish come into the parlour; there's a welcome there for you." Here at Mini Mag we greet you with these words: "If you're a children's worker come to us on Mini Mag; there's a WELCOME there for you." We believe that children's workers are unique people.

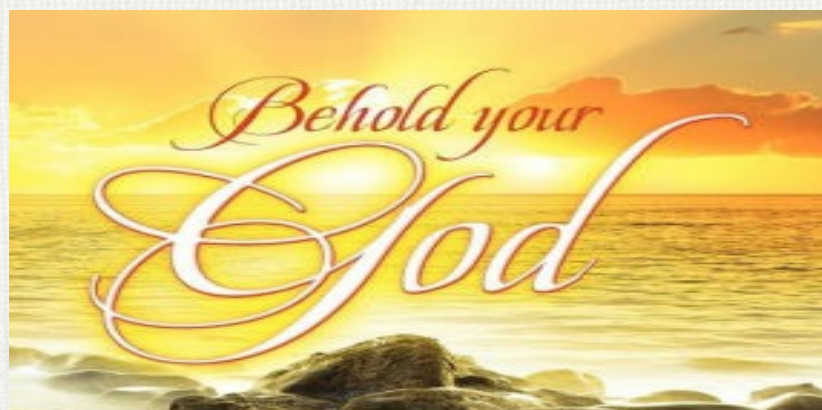
They see the spiritual needs of children when many other Christians don't.

They believe that children, little children, can trust Jesus Christ and be saved when many other Christians don't.

They believe that children should be evangelized when many other Christians don't. They believe that saved children can grow and mature spiritually when many other Christians don't.

As a result, we children's workers invest our time, our prayers and our resources in the evangelism of boys and girls.

If you are one of us, THERE IS A WELCOME HERE FOR YOU. But we have also a VERY SPECIAL WELCOME for all those who are among the "others" listed above, and we trust that we can also be of some help in your ministry.





### Bible Study:

It is vital to remember that the ministry of every children's worker should be based upon the Word of God. God, in His Word, provides us with the answers to our questions. We do not base our work on what people say, no matter how intellectual or influential they are, but upon what God says.

The most vital and most important question for anyone engaged in a ministry to children is "Can a child, a little child, be saved?" "Is he able, at a young age, to put his trust in Jesus Christ, and have a true experience of regeneration?" God's answer to that question is found in verse 6 of Matthew chapter 18, the chapter which we have been studying in recent issues of Mini Mag, and the chapter in which God reveals many truths about children.

The Lord Jesus has His arms around a little child (probably, we concluded in Mini Mag no.10, around 5 to 10 years old) and He says "Whoever causes one of **THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME** to sin, it would be better for him that a millstone was hung around his neck and he was drowned in the depth of the sea." The Lord Jesus is speaking literally about little children (PAIDION in Greek), like the one in His arms, and by using the word MIKROS (little in Greek) three times in this passage to describe them, He

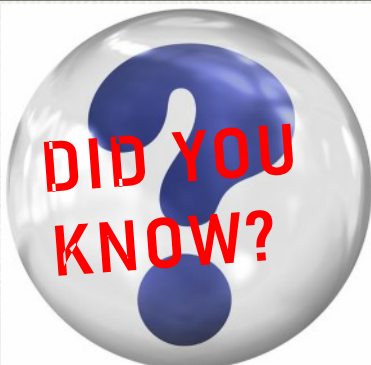
emphasises that they are LITTLE ones. He then says that these are LITTLE ONES "who **believe in** Him." The Greek word "believe in" used here by the Lord Jesus means "to trust" and is the word used for saving faith throughout the New Testament.

For example, when the jailer asked Paul in Acts 16:30 what he needed to do to be saved, Paul used this word to tell him to "**believe in** the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." And in John 3:16 the Lord Jesus Himself tells us that anyone who "**believes in** Him" (same word) will have eternal life.

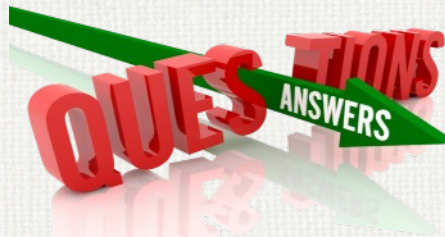
**In Matthew 18:6 the Lord Jesus is making it clear to us that it is possible for a little child to believe in Him and be born again. Our question has been answered and NO-ONE SHOULD DOUBT OR DENY WHAT HE HAS CLEARLY SAID.**



## Understanding Children



- That ACEW is devoted to the production of teaching materials which will help you in two ways; firstly, to evangelize unsaved children and, secondly, to help saved children grow spiritually.
- That we have produced two series of visualised lessons which will give you special help and assistance in these two ministries: "Salvation—the Gift of God" and "Growth—the Plan of God." Each series has 20 visualised lessons.
- That the series on salvation has simple lessons for children on subjects like justification, regeneration, adoption and the work of the Holy Spirit - explained and applied biblically and logically, and with flashcards and illustrations.
- That the series on growth deals biblically, and practically, with the blessings and problems of the Christian life. Pictures and illustrations are added to teach subjects like assurance, guidance, victory over sin, prayer, and witness.



### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**QUESTION:** At what age can a child trust Jesus Christ as his Saviour?

**ANSWER:** The Bible does not give a specific answer to this question. The only reference to age is when the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 18:6 that LITTLE children could be saved. It is therefore not biblical to say that a child must be 12, 13 or 14 before he can trust Christ. Those who say so would see childhood as only a time for sowing the seed and the teen age years as the time for evangelism and harvest. But we need to remember that the Lord Jesus commands us to "preach the gospel to EVERY creature." (Mark 16:15) The Bible does not give an age for conversion because every child is different. Some children of 5,6 or 7, can have a clear understanding of spiritual truths and are ready to trust Christ, while some children of 8,9 or 10 do not have that understanding and are not ready to trust Him.

As soon as a child is old enough to be conscious of having sinned against God, old enough to be sorry for his sin, and old enough to understand that Jesus Christ died for him, he is old enough to put his trust in Him. What age is that? We don't know, but it is surely a long time before 12, 13 or 14.

That is why we evangelize children of all ages and trust the Holy Spirit to give them conviction, understanding and faith. Many Christians can testify to having trusted Christ in those early years.



*Your ministry:*

## Teaching Children

Our ministry as teachers of children should always be based on two fundamental principles:

1) There are **two kinds of children** in your class or club. Most of them (probably) are unsaved. They have never trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Several of them (probably) have trusted Him and are saved.

2) Your ministry will have **two quite separate goals**; firstly, to evangelize the unsaved children and lead them to Christ; and secondly, to help the saved children to grow in their Christian lives.

So far in our Mini Mags, we have concentrated mainly upon the evangelism of the unsaved children by **TEACHING** them the Gospel message, and **CHALLENGING** them to trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. But we have another responsibility in our evangelism. We need to understand that there could be children listening to us who want to be saved, but are not sure about what they should do. We need, therefore, to let them know that we would be willing to give them the help they need. This is not the invitation **to come to Christ and trust Him**. That **INVITATION** is an essential part of our gospel message. What we say now is only **INFORMATION** to let the children know that we are available after the meeting, if they want to **come to us** and ask us to show them more clearly what they must do to be saved. This opens the door for children who need and want such help, but does not put pressure on them.

We can **MAKE OURSELVES AVAILABLE** in this way any time in our lesson or even before our lesson. The important thing is to do it. Here is an example of what to say when you make yourself available.

*"If you are not saved and would like to be, but are not sure how to be, I would be glad to speak with you and help you after the meeting. Come and sit on one of these chairs in the front row after the meeting is over and I will come and speak with you."*

**"So, what are the steps I should follow in my evangelism of children?"**

**Firstly**, you should **TEACH** them the gospel message.

**Secondly**, you should **CHALLENGE** them, in that message, to trust the Lord Jesus.

**Thirdly**, you should **MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE** to counsel concerned children who need help in coming to Christ.

**Your fourth step** is to **COUNSEL** any such children who want your help, and lead them, if they so desire, to Christ.

In our next issue of Mini Mag, I will give you a detailed, step by step, plan which will show you how to lead a child to Christ when you are in this situation. We would appreciate it if you would let your fellow teachers know that we will deal with this subject next month, and encourage them to download the August 2021 issue of Mini Mag. No 12.



**thank  
ACEW you!**

Comments from those who  
have used our publications



### ACEW CAN HELP YOU

You will find great help by using the two series of doctrinal lessons *"Salvation - The Gift of God"* and *"Growth - The Plan of God"* in your ministry. These can be resourced online at [www.CEFBookMinistry.com](http://www.CEFBookMinistry.com). They are available as hard copy and in PowerPoint presentations. Teaching these lessons will deepen the understanding of the teacher and children and provide valuable life lessons. Many have found these lessons a great help in teaching children vital Gospel truths.

► "I'm glad to inform you that I received the precious box of books on child evangelism. The books titled *"Salvation - The Gift of God"* and *"Growth - The Plan of God"* along with the visuals are priceless and soul-lifting for the huge potential they are capable of unleashing in the minds of children in our fellowship. I promise to make good use of these profound lessons to bring the children closer to God through better exposition of the Word of God" (From Ghana)

► "I like the magazine. So educative. Just learnt a lot. Will make sure I share with fellow children workers." (Kenya)

► "Thanks a lot sir for your help and support. Today I have received the materials which has been sent." (India)



## History (and Heroes) of Children's Evangelism

We have already met a number of heroes who have played a major role, in some way, in the history of children's evangelism – like Charles Spurgeon, J Irvin Overholtzer, Josef Prower, Gene Warr, Trudy Kuhlman, Payson Hammond, Bob and Earlene Spence, Hudson Pope, Amy Carmichael and Jimmy Walker. This month, we welcome and introduce a man and his wife who have played a significant role in the worldwide development of children's evangelism, a role which has resulted in the salvation of many children in one country, and many more in lands around the world.

JOHN COOK and his wife LOIS were appointed as Child Evangelism Fellowship missionaries to South Korea in 1959. They ministered there for 25 years. John was a humble, quietly spoken man of God. He was not a dynamic evangelist or an outstanding preacher. But he was a gifted leader, organiser, administrator and teacher, and had a great burden and vision for the children of South Korea. Above all, he was God's man to organise and lead

a ministry which would bring the gospel to the children of that country, and many other countries. After two years of language study, he and his wife started series of training classes all over the country, a weekly radio programme and the first 25 Good News Clubs. In the years which followed, large quantities of teaching materials were printed in Korean. Under John's leadership, local CEF works were organised, and open-air ministries and camping programmes were developed. But John's goal was to bring into existence, and establish, a strong national Korean work which would no longer need him. So he concentrated on leadership training, and organised training institutes from which many Koreans graduated, and were ready to take over the work full-time. Eventually, under John's wise leadership, South Korean CEF became an independent CEF organisation under Korean leadership and able to finance



themselves, train their own workers and produce their own literature. But that is only the beginning of the story, not the end. After 25 years of ministry JOHN and LOIS returned to take up CEF leadership positions in USA.

To-day South Korean CEF has 3000 Good News Clubs, 50000 trained teachers, reaching 3 million children annually, 217 fulltime workers and they have sent 63 missionaries with full support, to 27 countries, where they are reaching many more thousands of children, many of them in "difficult countries."

These are the results of the devoted ministry and sound strategy of a young couple from USA.

JOHN AND LOIS COOK, WE WELCOME YOU INTO OUR MINI MAG HALL OF FAME

## The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

### Personal Advice from the Author:

After my graduation from university, I entered the teaching profession, and soon discovered that if my teaching was to be effective, it needed to be **simple, logical and interesting**. I have since discovered that, in my ministry as a children's evangelist, I need to follow the same three principles. **BE SIMPLE, BE LOGICAL, BE INTERESTING.**

I want to assure you that the two series of lessons mentioned on the second page fulfil all three of these conditions. In the series "*Salvation - The Gift of God*", doctrinal truths like justification, regeneration and adoption are explained simply, and in language children can understand. They are set out logically, step by step, and illustrated effectively with stories from the Bible and with pictures and illustrations from everyday life. All lessons include applications and challenges. I also want to emphasise that the second series of lessons on Christian Growth, "*Growth - The Plan of God*" are also simple and practical, and the truths taught in these lessons about the Holy Spirit, prayer, assurance and witness follow the same three "rules".

## TIPS FOR TEACHERS

There are many ways you could use these two series of lessons in your ministry.

- You could teach the whole two series over a period of 40 weekly sessions in a school's ministry.
- You could select five related evangelistic lessons from the series on salvation to use in a 5-Day Club ministry.
- You could teach a short series of these doctrinal lessons before you start your regular teaching programme.
- You could select and teach individual lessons which would help explain some difficult truth in your programme.
- You could use single lessons for a one-off speaking engagement like our lesson on Zacchaeus. (Mini Mag issue 10)

**THESE TWO SERIES OF LESSONS ARE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR EVERY CHILDREN'S EVANGELIST**

The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Director of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at [www.CEFBookMinistry.com](http://www.CEFBookMinistry.com).

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